



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Urgent
Personal
Attention of
Mr. Moury

Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman, Committee on Foreign
Relations
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of February 11, 1971, requesting our comments on a bill, S. 596 which would require the transmission to the Congress of international agreements other than treaties to which the United States becomes a party.

The Executive Branch agrees fully with the general purpose of this bill as we understand it -- to ensure that the Congress is properly informed of the conclusion by the United States of new international agreements in a manner that will enable it to carry out its constitutional responsibilities.

In order to accomplish that purpose, however, the Department of State does not believe that legislation is either necessary or desirable. Instead, the Department believes that practical arrangements can be worked out with the Congress and the Committees concerned that will meet the needs of the Congress in this area. We are prepared to discuss the establishment of such arrangements with the Committee and its staff.

The Department of State believes that if a working arrangement could be made, experience over a reasonable of time, for example one year, would demonstrate that the needs of Congress can thus be met. At the least, such a trial arrangement would permit Congress and the Executive Branch better to determine whether any legislation is best designed to meet the needs of Congress. Representatives of the Department of State and of the Senate and House Committees could review the working arrangements from time to time with a view to improving them wherever necessary.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file